



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

November 24 to December 8, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Week of 12/08: New Haven, Connecticut, Police utilized ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link a gun discarded by a suspicious individual to a shooting three days earlier. Police responded to a report of a shooting outside a store. The victim told police that the suspect approached him as he exited the store, pulled out a handgun, and told the victim to run. The suspect fired one shot and struck the victim in the leg. Police recovered one spent cartridge casing, which was imaged into NIBIN. Three days later, an officer working a detail at a nightclub approached a suspicious individual. The officer saw the suspect discard a handgun near a dumpster as he began to flee the scene. The suspect was caught and the handgun was recovered, test fired, and imaged into NIBIN, which resulted in a link to the shooting outside the store three days earlier. Tracing of the firearm indicated that it was one of several pistols purchased by one individual on the same day in a different state. Federal prosecution of the suspect has been recommended and an investigation of the purchaser of the firearm has been requested.

Week of 12/01: Ballistic imaging through NIBIN assisted two Connecticut Police Departments in identifying and locating a suspect in separate crimes that occurred six months apart. Hamden Police were called to a shooting outside a bar where two individuals exchanged gunfire after an argument. Both individuals fled the scene, but police recovered 9mm and .40-caliber casings and a .32-caliber revolver at the scene. One of the individuals involved was located, admitted to shooting in self-defense, and surrendered a .40-caliber pistol. The cartridge casings were imaged into NIBIN. About six months later, New Haven Police responded to a report of shots fired. At the scene, officers recovered cartridge casings and determined that two female victims had been stabbed and transported to the hospital. Witnesses told police that the victims were injured during a fight involving a number of suspects. The casings were imaged into NIBIN and resulted in a link to the Hamden case. Investigation and communication between the two police departments resulted in the identification of a suspect involved in both shootings. An arrest warrant was issued.

Week of 11/24: The use of ballistic imaging through NIBIN helped the Rochester, New York, Police Department to link two drive-by shootings with multiple victims to a murder. The first shooting involved three victims in a car stopped at a traffic light. The suspect vehicle pulled up and three gunmen opened fire on the victims' vehicle. The victims and witnesses could not identify the shooters and could give only a general description of the vehicle. A number of .380-caliber and 9mm caliber casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. A week later, police responded to a call of a man shot. At the scene, police found the victim, who later died, lying in the street. The victim's brother told police they were walking when a vehicle passed by, stopped ahead of them, and an unknown suspect shot the victim from the car. A .380-caliber casing was recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Approximately a week later Rochester Police responded to a call for shots fired and found two victims in a vehicle. The vehicle also had two children in the back seat. While the victims' car was stopped at an intersection, another vehicle pulled along side and an unknown suspect leaned out of the driver's side window and shot several times. The driver and front seat passenger were hit. The passenger died later at the hospital. Two 9mm casings were recovered at the scene and subsequently imaged into NIBIN. A call went out to watch for a specific vehicle, which was located and the driver questioned. The investigation continues.